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MASSACHUSETTS OUTDOOR “COOKING” FIRE REGULATIONS

Last Updated: May 22, 2020

In an effort to alleviate some confusion over the rules and regulations with regard to outdoor cooking and recreational fires (including outdoor fire pits/places, chimineas, etc) the Hopedale Fire Department: Fire Prevention Division has compiled a brief summary of pertinent rules and regulations.

Any resident (at a single-family home) who wishes to have an outdoor “cooking” or “recreational” fire must call Fire Headquarters at (508) 473 – 1050 PRIOR to igniting a fire to obtain permission per order of the Fire Chief. Any individual who wishes to have a fire at a residence they do not own, a multi-family dwelling or public property must obtain a permit from the Fire Department (*527 CMR 1.00: 10.10.4.1.1*). These rules are a safeguard to ensure public safety from a variety of viewpoints:

- 1) It ensures the Fire Department is aware of any outdoor “cooking” or “recreational” fire’s occurring in town.
- 2) Allows for residents to be informed if “cooking” fires are being permitted from an air quality standpoint (determined by the Department of Environmental Protection) as well as a Fire Safety standpoint (as determined by the Fire Chief).

Laws and Regulations related to “Cooking” Fires

- All Fires must be continuously attended by a competent adult.
(*MGL Ch 48, Sec 13 and 527 CMR 1.00: 10.10.6.1*)
- A garden hose connected to a water supply or other fire extinguishing equipment shall be readily available for use.
(*527 CMR 1.00: 10.10.1.1 and 527 CMR 1.3.3.3*)
- Outdoor fire pits/fireplaces, chimineas, cooking and recreational fires are not incinerators. The burning of leaves, grass, hay, stumps, trash, rubbish, painted/stained wood, and construction debris is prohibited.
(*527 CMR 1.00: 11.6.2, NFPA 82 3.3.7, 310 CMR 7.07.3e, and 310 CMR 719.003(2)*).
- A fire that is greater than 3 feet in diameter or 2 feet in height is no longer considered a cooking or recreational fire.
(*527 CMR 1.00: 3.3.72*)
- Any fire that causes a nuisance or health hazard resulting in a complaint to the Fire Department may result in the fire being ordered to be extinguished.
(*310 CMR 7.07.3g and 310 CMR 7.52*)
- No combustible liquids or accelerants are permitted.
(*310 CMR 7.07.1*)
- May not be within 75 feet from any dwelling/structure.
(*310 CMR 7.07.3e.2*)

The burning of brush is only permitted during Open Burning Season, January 15th to May 1st each year. This requires a permit. See opposite side of paper for information, regulations, and rules.

MASSACHUSETTS

OPEN BURNING SEASON REGULATIONS

(JANUARY 15TH TO MAY 1ST)

Last Updated: May 22, 2020

General Information:

Permits for open burning may be obtained at Fire Headquarters (40 Dutcher St, Hopedale MA 01747) any time after January 1st. The cost of the permit is \$5.00 payable by cash or check only. The permit is good for the entire season, however it needs to be activated each day.

If the applicant is not the owner of the property, they must have written permission from the owner that explicitly grants permission for the tenant to burn brush in order to obtain a permit.

Rules and Regulations related to Open Burning Season

1. Burning must take place a minimum of seventy five (75) feet from all structures.
2. Burning of tires, lumber, leaves, lawns, hay, straw, and or building materials is strictly prohibited and punishable by a \$500.00 fine.
3. You are required to have a source of water for extinguishment and control at all times.
4. Fires must be attended by an adult at all times.
5. Hours of burning are from 10:00am to 4:00pm.
6. Permit numbers are issued for specific locations and permission to burn on a given day must be authorized on the day that open burning is to take place.
7. The permit may be revoked by the Fire Department at any time.
8. Open Burning Season is regulated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and cannot be extended by local authority.
9. No open burning permits will be granted to commercial entities or to individuals who are not specifically the land owner of the permitted address.
10. The individual who obtained the permit responsible for control of the permit fire and is responsible for complete extinguishment. The individual may be held responsible for any cost incurred by the Town of Hopedale for failure to properly control or extinguish the fire in accordance with associated rules and regulations.